

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
N.J. AKERS & CO.
Attn. Akers, Noel James
Grey Friars, Spring Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire AL5 3PP
UNITED KINGDOM

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference X20122PCT	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23/06/2005
International application No. PCT/GB2004/004145	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/09/2004
Applicant KCC GROUP LIMITED	

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:
 The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**


Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within **20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Véronique Baillou
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
K20122PCT	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest Priority Date (day/month/year))	
International application No.	28/09/2004	29/09/2003	
PCT/GB2004/004145			
Applicant			
KCC GROUP LIMITED			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☐ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title.

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings.

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004145

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-4, 11, 12

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-4,11,12

Apparatus comprising a solvent and/or a solute inlet having a fluidising unit which creates a vortex in the solvent and/or solute, in particular suitable for the leaching of ore.

2. claim: 5

Apparatus comprising a solvent and/or a solute inlet having a fluidising unit which creates a vortex in the solvent and/or solute, in particular suitable for dissolving salt (solute) in water (solvent).

3. claims: 6-8

Apparatus comprising a solvent and/or a solute inlet having a fluidising unit which creates a vortex in the solvent and/or solute, in particular suitable for use with edible or potable solute in the food and drink industries.

4. claims: 9-10

Apparatus comprising a solvent and/or a solute inlet having a fluidising unit which creates a vortex in the solvent and/or solute, in particular suitable for pressurised treatment of seeds prior to sowing.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/004145

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B01F5/00 C22B3/02 B01F3/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C22B B01F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 053 142 A (JOHANNES ET AL) 11 October 1977 (1977-10-11) figure 2; abstract	1,2,11, 12
X	EP 0 498 024 A (ERWIN MUELLER GMBH) 12 August 1992 (1992-08-12) figure 1; claim 1	1-3
A	DE 448 148 C (SOCIEDAD MINERA "CUPRUM") 12 March 1928 (1928-03-12) figures; page 1, lines 1-9	1-4,11
A	US 6 368 381 B1 (KING JAMES A ET AL) 9 April 2002 (2002-04-09) figure 3	1-4,11
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 February 2005

Date of making of the international search report

23.05.05

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.O. 5018 Patentplan 2
NL - 2280 LV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3010

Authorized officer

Bjoerk, P

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/004145

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			Relevant to claim No.
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		
A	US 4 298 377 A (SZEKELY ET AL) 3 November 1981 (1981-11-03) claim 1; figures		1-4, 11
X, P	WO 03/101868 A (DYNAMIC PROCESSING SOLUTIONS PLC; DELVES, JAMES, EDWARD; YOUNG, NEIL) 11 December 2003 (2003-12-11) figures 1 and 2		1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004145

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4053142	A	11-10-1977	NONE	
EP 0498024	A	12-08-1992	DE AT DE EP	4103172 A1 06-08-1992 149576 T 15-03-1997 59108582 D1 10-04-1997 0498024 A1 12-08-1992
DE 448148	C	12-03-1928	NONE	
US 6368381	B1	09-04-2002	US AU AU AU AU ZA ZA	6183706 B1 06-02-2001 764618 B2 28-08-2003 4382700 A 11-01-2001 738544 B2 20-09-2001 1860099 A 23-09-1999 9901942 A 12-10-2000 200003403 A 02-02-2001
US 4298377	A	03-11-1981	CA DE EP ES JP JP JP	1165128 A1 10-04-1984 3071753 D1 16-10-1986 0030220 A2 10-06-1981 8205572 A1 01-11-1982 1312438 C 11-04-1986 56090938 A 23-07-1981 60036460 B 20-08-1985
WO 03101868	A	11-12-2003	GB AU BR CA EP WO	2389094 A 03-12-2003 2003242837 A1 19-12-2003 0311521 A 22-02-2005 2487698 A1 11-12-2003 1532064 A1 25-05-2005 03101868 A1 11-12-2003

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